

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please revise paragraphs [0020], [0024], [0025], and [0026] of the specification as follows:

[0020] The output shaft 13 of the starter motor 12 is linked to one end of the crankshaft 11 by the starting gear transmission device 15. The starting gear transmission device 15 includes a short first shaft 17 and a long second ~~first~~ shaft 16 ~~and a short second shaft 17~~ supported by the opposed first and second fixed walls 10a and 10b of the engine body 10 between the output shaft 13 of the starter motor 12 and the crankshaft 11. A large-diameter gear 19 engaged with a pinion 18 at the external end of the output shaft 13 is fitted onto one end side of the ~~first~~ second shaft 16, and a small-diameter gear 20 engaged with an idle gear 21 having an intermediate diameter rotatably supported by the ~~second~~ first shaft 17 is fitted onto the other end side of the ~~first~~ second shaft 16.

[0024] The vibration-proof structure of this starting gear transmission device 15 will be described in greater detail hereinafter with reference to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3. The above idle gear 21 turns on the ~~second~~ first shaft 17 and can slide in the axial direction between the first and second fixed walls 10a and 10b. A wave washer 31 which is wavy in a peripheral direction is interposed between one end face of the idle gear 21 and a plane washer 33 placed on the end face of the second fixed wall 10b to surround the ~~second~~ first shaft 17. The wave washer 31 is compressed by a predetermined amount between the end face of the idle gear 21

and the plane washer 33 placed on the end face of the second fixed wall 10b, whereby a predetermined set load for pressing the idle gear 21 toward the first fixed wall 10a is applied.

[0025] A cylindrical portion 30 surrounding this wave washer 31 is integrated with one end face of the idle gear 21 and when the idle gear 21 is contacted to the first fixed wall 10a, a predetermined space 32 is formed between the cylindrical portion 30 and the plane washer 33 in contact with the second fixed wall 10b. This space 32 serves as the bending margin of the wave washer 31 so that the bending amount of the wave washer 31 is regulated by contact between the cylindrical portion 30 and the second fixing wall 10b through the plane washer 33. In this manner, the cylindrical portion 30 makes contact with the second fixing wall 10b through the plane washer 33, the plane washer 33 constituting a regulating means or regulating device.

[0026] When the idle gear 21 vibrates on the ~~second~~first shaft 17 in the axial direction by load variation or the like during the starting of the engine, e.g., during the operation of the starting gear transmission device 15, this vibration can be absorbed by the elastic deformation of the wave washer 31 in the axial direction. In this case, when the idle gear 21 is pressed toward the second fixed wall 10b side by an excessive thrust load, the wave washer 31 is bent by a predetermined amount corresponding to the above space 32 and then the idle gear 21 brings the cylindrical portion 30 into contact with the second fixed wall 10b through the plane washer 33, whereby the bending amount of the wave washer 31 is regulated to restrain the generation of excessive resiliency. Therefore, it is possible to

prevent the amplification of the vibration of the idle gear 21 caused by the excessive resiliency. The suppression of the vibration of the above idle gear 21 can reduce the whole vibration of the starting gear transmission device 15. At the same time, the durability of the wave washer 31 can be improved.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TITLE

Please **revise the Title** as follows:

~~VIBRATION-PROOF~~ VIBRATION REDUCING STRUCTURE FOR A GEAR
TRANSMISSION DEVICE